



# Media Release

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**25th Infantry Division &  
U.S. Army, Hawaii  
*America's Pacific Division***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Cadmium and Chromium at Wheeler Army Airfield**

**Schofield Barracks, Hawaii**—A routine environmental inspection indicated the presence of cadmium and chromium, both naturally and commonly occurring elements, in three hangars at Wheeler Army Airfield.

As a precautionary measure, Army officials temporarily closed the three hangars January 31.

After further analysis, Army health and safety officials determined the hangars safe to re-enter, provided individuals wear the normal, required protective clothing and gear.

However, in the interests of safety, the command here has decided to keep the hangars closed pending a thorough cleanup.

“The health and safety of our people is our primary concern,” said Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and U.S. Army Hawaii. “We are taking the extra time to thoroughly clean these facilities because it is the most responsible, most moral thing to do. People are our most valuable resource, and we are committed to protecting them.”

Cadmium and chromium are naturally occurring elements found in rocks, soil, volcanic dust, plants and animals.

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Cadmium is commonly and popularly used in products like batteries, pigments, metal coatings, plastics, and nuts and bolts. Likewise, chromium is also used in a wide variety of commercial products including paints, pigments and tanning leather.

Most individuals are exposed to cadmium and chromium on a daily basis, and there are no resulting health concerns. There can be possible health-related issues, but only after ingesting or inhaling low quantities of these elements over long periods of time or large quantities over a short period of time.

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